

Watershed Evaluations

03060102-010

(Chattooga River)

General Description

Watershed 03060102-010 is located in Oconee County and consists primarily of the *Chattooga River* and its tributaries from where it crosses the North Carolina border to its confluence with the Tallulah River on the Georgia side at the Tugaloo Dam. The watershed occupies 34,825 acres of the Blue Ridge region of South Carolina. The predominant soil types consist of an association of the Hayesville - Saluda-Ashe series. The erodibility of the soil (K) averages 0.21, and the slope of the terrain averages 39% with a range of 10-80%. Land use/land cover in the watershed includes: 93.7% forested land, 5.4% agricultural land, 0.2% barren land, 0.6% water, and 0.1% forested wetland.

The Chattooga River flows across the North Carolina/South Carolina border in the northwest corner of South Carolina, flowing between the states of South Carolina and Georgia. Streams flowing into the river from the Georgia side are connoted with an asterisk. Flowing out of North Carolina, the river accepts drainage from Bad Creek, East Fork Chattooga River (Dark Branch, Jacks Creek, Indian Camp Branch), Harden Creek*, King Creek, Lick Log Creek (Thrift Lake, Pigpen Branch), Ira Branch, and Reed Creek*, West Fork*, Holden Branch*, Adline Branch*, Bynum Branch*, and Laurel Branch*. Further downstream, Moss Mill Creek enters the river followed by Warwomen Creek*, Dicks Creek*, Whetstone Creek (Tyler Branch, Swaford Branch, Harts Branch), Rock Creek*, Buckeye Branch*, Lick Long Creek*, and Turpin Branch. Fall Creek (Fall Creek, North Fork Fall Creek, Stump Branch) enters the river next followed by Tilly Branch, Pole Creek*, Reedy Branch, Stekoa Creek*, Cliff Creek*, Long Creek, Pinckney Branch, Daniel Creek*, Fishtrap Branch, Camp Creek*, and Opossum Creek (Camp Branch, Sawhead Branch, Shoulder Bone Branch). The Chattooga River then flows through Lake Tugaloo accepting drainage from Devils Branch, Bad Creek*, and Worse Creek* before merging with the Tallulah River* to form the Tugaloo River. There are a total of 96.5 stream miles and 161.2 acres of lake waters within the South Carolina portion of the watershed.

The Chattooga River and its tributaries from the North Carolina line to Opossum Creek are classified ORW with the following exceptions. The portion of East Fork Chattooga River from its confluence with Indian Camp Branch to the Chattooga River is classified TN, Whetstone Creek and Swaford Branch are classified TN, and Turpin Branch, Fall Creek, Tilly Branch, Reedy Branch, Long Creek, Pinckney Branch, Fishtrap Branch, and Opossum Creek are classified FW. The Chattooga River and its tributaries from Opossum Creek to the Tugaloo River are classified FW. Lake Tugaloo is classified TPGT. The Sumter National Forest extends across the entire watershed.

Surface Water Quality

<u>Station #</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Description</u>
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SV-308	S/BIO	ORW	EAST FORK CHATTOOGA RIVER AT SC 107, 2 MI S OF STATE LINE
SV-792	BIO	ORW	EAST FORK CHATTOOGA RIVER 300 MI DOWNSTREAM OF HATCHERY OUTFALL
SV-227	P/BIO	ORW	CHATTOOGA RIVER AT SC 28 3.5 MI NW MT REST
SV-199	P	ORW	CHATTOOGA RIVER AT US 76
SV-359	W	FW	LAKE TUGALOO , FOREBAY EQIDISTANT FROM SPILLWAY AND SHORELINE

Chattooga River – There are two monitoring stations along the Chattooga River. Aquatic life uses are fully supported at the upstream site (**SV-227**). Significant decreasing trends in five-day biochemical oxygen demand, turbidity, and total nitrogen concentration suggest improving conditions for these parameters. Recreational uses are fully supported; however, there is a significant increasing trend in fecal coliform bacteria concentration.

Aquatic life uses are also fully supported at the downstream site (**SV-199**); however, there is a significant increasing trend in total phosphorus concentration. A significant decreasing trend in turbidity suggests improving conditions for this parameter. PCB 1232 was detected in the 1997 sediment sample. Recreational uses are fully supported and a significant decreasing trend in fecal coliform bacteria concentration suggests improving conditions for this parameter.

East Fork Chattooga River - There are two monitoring sites along the East Fork Chattooga River. At the upstream site (**SV-308**), aquatic life uses are fully supported based on macroinvertebrate community, physical, and chemical data. There is a significant increasing trend in pH. A significant decreasing trend in five-day biochemical oxygen demand suggests improving conditions for this parameter. Recreational uses are fully supported at this site. At the downstream site (**SV-792**), aquatic life uses are fully supported based on macroinvertebrate community data.

Lake Tugaloo (SV-359) - Aquatic life and recreational uses are fully supported.

A fish consumption advisory has been issued by the Department for mercury and includes Lake Tugaloo within this watershed (see advisory p. 37).

NPDES Program

Active NPDES Facilities

RECEIVING STREAM FACILITY NAME PERMITTED FLOW @ PIPE (MGD)	NPDES# TYPE COMMENT
EAST FORK CHATTOOGA RIVER SCDNR/WALHALLA FISH HATCHERY PIPE #: 002 FLOW: M/R	SC0000451 MINOR INDUSTRIAL

Growth Potential

There is a low potential for growth in this watershed, which resides entirely within the Sumter National Forest. The steep slopes of this region would limit establishment of infrastructure and any serious growth